



Secretary of the Army honors Team Member Margaret Jones



Margaret Jones, a project management professional with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Transatlantic Programs Center, received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service in ceremonies at the Pentagon on April 15.

The award, presented by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, is the Army's highest honorary award.

"I am humbled to receive this significant award and to be in the company of those who were honored at the ceremony," Jones said. "Only four other Corps of Engineers employees from around the world were selected as recipients."

Twenty-seven civilians were honored in the Department of Army ceremony.

Jones received the award for her exceptional service while serving in the Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, Iraq, from August 2004 through December 2007. The Gulf Region Division is managing a multi-billion civil and military reconstruction program in Iraq.

Jones held progressive assignments of increasing responsibility while serving in the Gulf Region Division, culminating with the position of deputy director of business management.

Being in Iraq broadened my perspective of the world and the United States' involvement in bringing stability," she said. "Being there also gave me countless professional opportunities to lead and manage, always in a fast-paced environment given the urgency of the work and meeting project deadlines. I also had the opportunity to work with Iraqi citizens and firms committed to reconstructing their country and meeting the basic needs of its people."

She was responsible for leading and managing programs to provide technical engineering support, financial operations, contracting services, and real estate. In addition, she helped shape the strategic direction of the Business Management Directorate.

Before becoming deputy director of business management, she served as the deputy for Military Programs Directorate where she supervised several program managers in carrying out a \$1.3 billion design and construction program to provide facilities and services on behalf of the U.S. military and Iraqi nationals.

Jones deployed to Iraq after serving six years with the Transatlantic Programs Center, four of them in Winchester and two in Cairo. During that time, she served as a senior project engineer and program manager for projects in Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

She now provides program and project management support for projects in Iraq from the Transatlantic Programs Center headquarters.

The Army's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service is awarded to individuals who have established a pattern of excellence and achievement. Award recipients must meet several criteria including demonstrating that the achievements are of major significance in advancing the missions of the Department of Army, the Department of Defense, and the federal government; exhibiting courage and voluntary risk of life in performance that benefits the government; and providing outstanding leadership to meet unique or emergency situations.

Her citation read that she was "the foundation of, and pioneer for, many programs...resulting in increased efficiency for the workforce as well as significantly contributing to the life support and safety of military, civilian and contractor personnel."

Jones is a registered project management professional. She holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She lives in Stephens City and has four children.